



Tempe Public Art



platFORM - Cycle 1

Connor Coffman

Industrial Desert, 2013

Steel and powder coat

Location: Hayden Flour Mill
Corner Structure
119 S. Mill Ave.

Photo by: Sean Deckert

The public art programs of Tempe, Scottsdale, and Chandler have partnered in platFORM, a multi-city, student sculpture initiative that gives currently enrolled Arizona student-artists the opportunity to create artwork for temporary showcase in public places. platFORM aims to prepare emerging artists for future public art opportunities and to gain a wider exposure for their work.

Description: Coffman's architectural sculpture is a metallic tribute to the majestic saguaro found almost exclusively in Arizona and Mexico. The saguaro, which survives excessive heat and needs water just a few times per year, symbolizes the open arms Arizona shows to a variety of people from around the world and their ability to thrive against all obstacles, especially the heat. The design began as a digital two-dimensional drawing, brought to life through numerous forms of rapid prototyping such as laser cutting and water jet computer numerical control (CNC).

Artist biography: Coffman, a native Arizonan, is currently a senior at Arizona State University, majoring in Digital Culture. He is fascinated with all things electronic, and his passion leads him to exploring and utilizing numerous obscure, vintage technologies. Coffman is a relative new-comer to visual arts, and his first experiences happened through studying neon sculpture, cold cathode technology. This resulted in pieces featured in the Lighthouse Exhibition at the Alwun House and the Phototaxis Exhibition at The Ice House. When working on a new design, Coffman utilizes the design philosophy of Dieter Rams: "Weniger aber besser" (less, but better). After completing the Bachelor's Degree program in the spring of 2015, Coffman plans to pursue a career involving design and visual arts.

Funding: This project was funded through the City of Tempe Municipal Arts Fund with the support of the Tempe Municipal Arts Commission.